

SCALING-UP FOR BETTER HEALTH (IHP+)

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HIGHLIGHTS

In this sixth issue of the Scaling-up for Better Health (IHP+) update, we profile Mali, summarize IHP+ consultations on engaging Civil Society Organisations, report back on the first inter-regional meeting of IHP+ partners in Lusaka, report on planned support for Global Fund's Round 8 implementation of proposals, and the outcome of the first Global Forum on Human Resources for Health.

COUNTRY PROFILE – MALI



Mali has developed a ten-year social and health development plan (PRODESS) as a frame of reference for country interventions aimed at improving the coordination and harmonization of sustainable health development policy. PRODESS will be implemented using a number of coordination and steering entities; these entities are organized into several streams such as policy-, strategic- and operationally-related tasks that will address both specific and complementary tasks.

Some of the outcomes of PRODESS include the improved ability to monitor and evaluate the implementation effectiveness of numerous national initiatives as well as to continue to develop a better Health Resource Information Management System.

Health-sector planning capacities of many of the health network actors in Mali have been strengthened by the introduction and improvement of existing measurement tools, thus resulting in a more harmonized and aligned

planning cycle that can be being synchronized with the goals of the State budget. This stabilization has had broad effects on external sources of funding as well: due to the Ministry of Health's harmonization of goals with the Ministry of Finance, external funding has become slightly more predictable.

PRODESS aims to increase control of many health programmes by regional authorities; progress has been made, but some activities continue to be hindered by the lack of regional level decision-making power. Other issues include the need to improve service delivery outcomes specifically for community- and patient-based health systems approaches. Rehabilitation and technical facilities are also lacking in quality. An improved drug prescription policy is being planned in an effort to access a greater number of patients, both socioeconomically and geographically. The strengthening of management and the renewed motivation of trained human resources health services personnel are two other key next steps in Mali's plan to meet the Health MDGs under the IHP.

A revised development plan (PRODESS II) is due to come to an end in 2009 and will likely be extended until 2011 in order more closely to align itself with a Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper (PRGSP) and will update tools such as the MTEF to reflect new goals. This process should be finalized at the end of the first quarter of 2008. A roadmap to reach agreement with partners on key actions and the responsibilities of all parties is being drafted for consideration and will be reviewed at a forthcoming meeting of the PRODESS monitoring committee.

Useful links: [Ministry of Health, Mali](#) | [WHO Mali](#) | [UNICEF Mali](#) | [UNAIDS Mali](#) | [World Bank Mali](#)

RECENT EVENTS

Inter-Regional Country Health Sector Teams' Meeting: 27 Feb to 01 March 2008, Lusaka.

The first inter-regional meeting focusing on issues related to IHP+ and the Harmonization for Health in Africa Initiative concluded on March 1st. Thirteen countries summarized their efforts to strengthen health services in a 'Taking Stock' report. The event provided an opportunity for countries to share experiences on common constraints, improve coordination, explore how development partners are changing their ways of working, and provide feedback on global inter-agency work. The meeting concluded with a final session on an agreed '**Way forward**' covering preparations of 'compacts', monitoring and evaluation, changing development partner behaviours and procedures, engagement with civil society, harmonization of technical assistance, future inter-agency work and high level political advocacy.

Consultation on Civil Society Engagement in the IHP+: The global IHP compact signed by many partners and countries made a commitment for civil society to participate in the design, implementation and review of the IHP. There has already been considerable interest shown by Civil Society Organisations worldwide, and informal consultations have already taken place globally. At country level, CSO engagement has so far been limited, but the Lusaka meeting gave a clear call across countries and development partners for this situation to improve. A concept note that outlines different options for CSOs engagement in the IHP+ has now been widely circulated; this recognizes that CSO engagement enhances the focus on the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Responses to the [consultation document](#) are invited by 1st April, and meanwhile a CSO mapping exercise is now being undertaken by the IHP+ Core Team. A meeting of CSOs on the IHP+ is planned for late May, probably in Geneva.

Civil Society Code of Conduct for Health Systems Strengthening: The increase in foreign aid to the health sector in many poor countries over the past five years is welcome but presents many challenges. Direct funding for procurement, service delivery, and other essential functions through international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) can sometimes contribute to the fragmentation of health services and stimulate "internal brain drain" from state-run health institutions. Such practices may unintentionally undermine the health of communities as much as they help them.

To help address tensions between state and non-state institutions in the health sector, a number of INGOs have drafted a voluntary, consensus-driven "Code of Conduct for Health Sector Strengthening." The Code of Conduct is intended as a set of guidelines for service-delivery organizations, committing them to practices that sustain, rather than undermine, the complex network of institutions on which populations rely for their human right to health. Ultimately, the Code of Conduct is envisioned as a tool not only for INGOs, but also for governments and donors. The [NGO Code of Conduct](#) will be revised continuously over the next 12 months through a series of consultations tentatively planned in several locations worldwide.

Global Fund Round 8 and Strengthening Health Systems: The Global Fund has set a deadline for [Round 8 Proposals](#) as 1 July 2008 at 12:00 noon Geneva (Switzerland) local time. This round provides [specific guidance](#) on how proposals can be linked to strengthening health systems.

A joint WHO taskforce consisting of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Health Systems and Services staff will be acting in support of the Global Fund's Round 8 applications for funding. There are two tracks to WHO's support for Round 8 Health System Strengthening:

- a. **General orientation and access to information:** for useful materials, and workshops, WHO has a single portal (<http://www.who.int/globalfund>) through which links to HIV, TB, malaria and also relevant health system strengthening (HSS) materials can be found. Direct access to the same HSS materials is: http://www.who.int/healthsystems/gf_round8/en/index.html. There are also eight regional 'Round 8 Workshops' for countries during March.
- b. **Responses to specific country requests for support for HSS in Round 8:** Starting at the WHO Country Office level, these responses will involve all three levels of the WHO (eg., global, regional and country levels); [contacts for country offices](#) can be found on the WHO website. All WHO regional offices have joint task teams in place that will respond to requests for assistance from country offices. Consistent with other major HSS initiatives, the HQ taskforce's role is to support regional and country offices. It has developed briefing materials, which are on the web and meets regularly to review requests from WHO offices and define responses.

First Global Forum on Human Resources for Health: 2nd - 7th March 2008, Kampala.

On 05 March 2008, participants at the First Global Forum on Human Resources for Health agreed upon an [Agenda for Global Action](#). The agenda has six inter-connected strategies: (1) Building coherent and global leadership for health work-force solutions; (2) Ensuring capacity for an informed response based on evidence and joint learning; (3) Scaling up health worker education and training; (4) Retaining an effective, responsive and equitably distributed health workforce; (5) Managing the pressures of the international health workforce market and its impact on migration; and (6) Securing additional and more productive investment in the health workforce. Agreement on the agenda was followed by the acceptance of the [Kampala Declaration](#) and followed by two days of Skills Building Workshops which focused upon answering the practicalities of 'how' the Declaration can be implemented in terms of leadership, education and training, migration and retention, management and partnership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Fund: Discussions on the options for moving to Global Fund National Strategy Applications takes place in the Global Fund Policy and Strategy Committee in Geneva on 13th March.

[Version française](#) du bulletin - *Accroître les efforts et les ressources pour la santé (IHP+).*